THE SETTING

the death of Kemal Yar Jung the property came under the administration of the Court of Wards. In the meantime, vast changes were taking place in Hyderabad. After the Police Action of 1948, Hyderabad became an integral part of the Indian Republic. With the inauguration of the democratic order the Nizam has become a constitutional ruler and the feudal system within the State has been abolished. In consequence Shamirpet now comes under the jurisdiction of the normal district administration.

Shamirpet is situated at a distance of about a furlong from the north-bound road which runs between Hyderabad and Karimnagar. An unmetalled road links the village with the main road, from which some of the houses in the village are clearly visible. Between the road and the village there is a flat and fairly level patch of ground, and in the centre of this ground there is a tree around which the Muslims bury their dead. At the junction of the main road and the diversion leading to the village there is a small shelter for passengers awaiting the buses, built in stone and lime. A little way down to the north stands the Inspection Bungalow of the State Public Works Department. It is intended for the use of touring government officials, and can also be used by occasional visitors, who have to make a small payment for its use. Further north, at a distance of about two and a half furlongs, is the tank, which in its setting of barren rocks and tall trees provides a beautiful landscape. Between the tank and the road now lie the ruins of the 'summer house' which was built on the tank-bund by the last feudal landlord of the village. In his time it was provided with an electric generator, pipe lines and modern sanitary fittings, but after the Nawab's death it was deserted and is now a melancholy but romantic sight.

The village itself is not built according to a definite plan. A wide main street lies in the centre and runs almost parallel to and roughly a furlong away from the main road. As we proceed northwards down this street we find on the right a number of whitewashed stone buildings housing the various government offices, and on the left there are a number of small tea and betel shops. On the right there are also the residential quarters of the sub-inspector of police who is in charge of the police station, a government granary, living quarters of the police constables, the village dispensary, the school and the post office. Lanes branch off both right and left from the street, and on either side of these lanes are

1: Dube E-5 (1951-52) 1955 AW17 Telugu AW17

the law courts in the city. Now and then State officials visited the village on tour. In the second half of the Jagir period these administrative contacts increased very considerably. At the same time the urban contacts of a section of the village population also grew gradually. These included visiting relations and friends in the city, receiving relations and friends from the city, occasional excursions for shopping in the large city stores and markets as well as for sight-seeing, temporary stay of a short or long duration for work in the city, and finally being in everyday touch with officials resident in the village, who were regarded as an urban element in the village population. Increased contacts with the towns and cities were greatly facilitated by the construction of the metalled road joining Hyderabad with the district headquarters of Karimnagar in the interior of the State. This road touches Shamirpet. With the introduction of bicycles and buses frequent and regular contacts with the urban areas were made possible. The progress of education has been rather slow. In the early-Jagir days only a few children belonging to the higher castes, and also to the upper level families, received any schooling. Even this was confined to a bare acquaintance with three R's. With the opening of a school in the village education was placed within the reach of a much larger section and even some untouchable children started attending the school. Some ambitious parents sent their children to the higher schools in the city where they could learn English. Books, periodicals and newspapers which occasionally found their way into the village conveyed to the people 'strange truths regarding the wide world through the medium of the printed word'. The State administration initiated some of its welfare and nation-building activities in the countryside. Agriculture, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, Medical and Public Health, and Co-operation and Rural Development departments of the State started functioning in the rural areas. Their representatives and propagandists brought some new ideas and techniques to the village. The villagers saw their demonstrations, heard their talks, and were at times even coaxed into doing things in the new ways. This was indeed novel to them. In the earlier period government had only collected land revenue, heard some of their disputes, tried cases arising out of breaches of law, and occasionally forced them to provide practically free labour and 'presents' for touring government officials, but had never interfered with their agricultural

31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AWI India
Telugu AWI7

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Photo by E. Krishnamurti.

APPROACH TO THETTUPALLI.

[facing p. 94]

31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AW1 India
Telugu AW17

implements are bought chiefly in Chintamani, about 18 miles off, and also at Srinivasapur, about 14 miles off.

Articles of consumption are bought at the weekly fair held here on Tuesdays, also in Chintamani, Kothakota and some other places.

Sale of village produce.—The quantities produced here are: paddy 500 puttis,* ragi 200, † sugarcane to the value of about Rs. 1,500, other millets and pulses to the value of about Rs. 1,000.

Out of this whatever is required for household purposes is retained. The rest, more than 50 per cent, is sold away. The nearest market is Chintamani. Sometimes the grain is transported to Bangalore also.

There are about three local roads, one from Gownipalle to Addegal, a village 4 miles off, one from the village to Manchinillakota, a village 6 miles off, and the other up to Todigol, 6 miles off. Another short road running for three miles runs up to the Mysore frontier. On the other side is British territory and there is no road further up. The local road to Tadigol connects with the Bangalore-Cuddapah road. The nearest commercial centres are Chintamani and Bangalore, accessible by the said road. The nearest railway station is Srinivasapur, about 14 miles off, reached by road.

The fair that takes place here every week is a big affair. People from very different parts come here. The fair is nominally held on Tuesday, but it generally extends from Monday to Wednesday. The chief business is carried on in stock, especially sheep and goats. Business in these is carried on to the extent of Rs. 4,000. They are chiefly sent to the Kolar Goldfields for slaughter and consumption.

Economic condition of village.—The customary rates of wages, in money, are from 2 to 3 annas per day, for a man; and 1½ annas for a woman; in kind, 2 seers of ragi, or 3 seers of paddy to a man, 1½ seers of ragi or 2 seers of paddy to a woman.

The current prices of staple foods are—

Rice	...	..	...	8 Mysore seers for a rupee.
Ragi	...	...	...	28 " "
Sazzulu	...	...	...	20 " "
Cholam	...	...	...	14 " "
Tamarind	...	...	...	Re. 1 for a maund.
Jaggery	...	...	...	Rs. 2 "
Chillis	...	...	...	Rs. 4-8-0 "
Dhôll	...	...	...	8 seers for a rupee.

About four or five families have made savings to the extent of Rs. 5,000, but on the other hand others have contracted debts to the extent of Rs. 10,000. Owing to scarcity of rains and failure of crops the people have been obliged to borrow heavily to meet current and occasional expenses.

There are practically no families who have liberated themselves from debt. While paying off old scores they borrow in new places.

There is a co-operative credit society. The capital is subscribed in shares of Rs. 10 each payable in twenty monthly instalments.

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* [Weight about 89 tons, value about Rs. 10,000.—Ed.]
† [Weight about 48 tons, value about Rs. 4,000.—Ed.]